THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) to (f) During June 1999 only one VPT at Arama was opened in Bihar Sharif Sub-Division, Nalanda District strictly in accordance with the recommendation of the concerned BDO Ben as per present policy of the Govenrment. Pending investigation this VPT has been closed on account of public complaints about its location. Keeping in view the public convenience appropriate action will be taken as soon as possible. On completion of the investigation.

District Telecom Office in Meghalaya

1265. SHRI ONWARD L. NONGTDU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of district telecom offices set up and proposed to be set up in the country particularly in the state of Meghalaya during 1999-2000;

(b) by when the said offices are likely to be set up and the financial allocation for the purpose; and

(c) if the answers to part (a) and (b) above be in the negative, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) to (c) There are 321 Telecom Districts in the country, each headed by Telecom District Engineer/Telecom District Manager/General Manager/ Principal General Manager depending on workload. State of Meghalaya is one such Telecom District headed by General Manager. Telecom District covering a Secondary Switching Area is generally not bifuracated due to administrative and operational reasons.

Speed Post Service in Post Offices of Meghalaya

1266. SHRI ONWARD L. NONGTDU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the present number of post offices in the various cities of Meghalaya and the number of post offices out of them having speed post services; and

(b) the number of post offices in which the said services is proposed to be provided in the State during the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) The details are as under:—

Name of the Town	No. of POs	No. of POs having Speed Post Services
Shillong	22	4
Jowai	1	NIL
Cherrapunjee	1	NIL
Nongstoin	1	NIL
Baghmara	1	NIL
William Nagar	1	NIL

(b) Speed Post is a premium product providing time bound and Guaranteed delivery and is run on commerical considerations. Expansion of this network is an ongoing process depending on market situation.

Working Group in the Field of Telecommunications

†1267. SHRI SWARAJ KAUSHAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal is under Government's consideration to set up a working group in order to resolve the problems in the field of teclecommunications;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when the final decision in this regard is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) to (c) While addressing the 72nd Annual Session of FICCI, the Prime Minister had announced that to resolve certain problems relating to telecom

†Original Notice of the Question was received in Hindi.